

Are CFLs Recycled?

While CFL's are managed through the county's Household Hazardous Waste Program due to the small amounts of mercury found in the lamps, nearly every element in a CFL is recycled.



Once collected at one of our Household Hazardous Waste Facilities or at a remote collection event, CFLs are placed in a special drum for transport to a facility specially designed to process the lamps.

Once they've arrived, the lamps are crushed under negative pressure so that none of the materials—including the phosphor powder and the mercury vapor—escape into the atmosphere.

The glass and aluminum in the lamp are separated and cleaned for recycling. The phosphor powder is separated from the mercury-bearing powder and both are collected for further processing. This mercury-bearing powder will later be processed to remove the mercury for eventual reuse.



In partnership with other regional jurisdictions, Fairfax County supports Know Toxics—a program providing informational materials and local programmatic support to encourage businesses to properly manage their toxic electronic materials such as rechargeable batteries, CRT monitors, and fluorescent lights.

For more information on the proper management of fluorescent light bulbs and other toxic electronic materials, visit the Know Toxics web site:

www.knowtoxics.com

or visit the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management web site at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling

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a Fairfax County, Va., publication
July 2009

To request this information in an alternative format, please contact the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program at 703-324-5230, TTY 711.



Fairfax County
Solid Waste Management Program

Be Green,
See Green with
FLUORESCENT
LIGHT BULBS



Growing concerns about increasing energy costs and the health of our environment have many residents wondering ***“What Can I Do?”*** Using compact fluorescent lamps, or **CFLs**, is a simple way you can reduce your energy consumption and pollution generated by the combustion of fossil fuel for energy production!



Why Use CFLs?

Most of the energy consumed by traditional light bulbs is given off as heat - **not light!** CFLs use about 75 percent less energy and can last up to 10 times longer. Each CFL you install in your home will save about \$30 in energy costs over its lifetime.

COOL FACT:

If every American home replaced just **one** incandescent bulb with a CFL, the energy savings would total \$600 million annually!



-Energy Star

Manufacturers have used new styles and technology to make CFLs more affordable and esthetically pleasing. New designs make CFLs readily compatible with most lamp and chandelier styles, and cast a more “natural” light.



Additionally, a growing number of retailers, as well as the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program, accept CFLs for proper disposal when their useful life is over.

How Do I Dispose of CFLs?

CFLs contain approximately 5 milligrams of mercury (roughly enough to cover the tip of a ball-point pen). This small amount of mercury is the key element which makes CFLs so energy efficient, and it poses no harm to your family or the environment while the bulb remains intact.

See the next panel for simple steps for cleaning up and disposing of broken CFLs.

Disposal of intact CFLs is managed through the Fairfax County Household Hazardous Waste Program. Residents may simply bring their used CFLs to either of the Household Hazardous Waste facilities located in the county or to one of our remote Household Hazardous Waste Collection events (visit our web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling for dates and locations).

I-66 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Site 4618 West Ox Road Fairfax	I-95 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Site 9850 Furnace Road Lorton
Thursday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Thursday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday: Closed

What Should I Do if a CFL Breaks?

Do not vacuum broken fluorescent bulbs!



While CFLs contain only a trace amount of mercury, safety must be taken into consideration when cleaning up a broken CFL!

Step 1: Open a window and leave the room for at least 15 minutes.

Step 2: Remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner.

- Wear disposable rubber gloves.
- Scoop up fragments with stiff paper or cardboard.
- Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe.
- Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder.

Step 3: Place all cleanup materials in a plastic bag and seal it.

- Seal CFL particles in two plastic bags and place outside with your normal trash collection.
- Wash your hands.

The first time you vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, be sure to remove the bag or empty and wipe the canister clean.

Source: www.energystar.gov